

**APPENDIX D**

**GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA  
4/8/98 RAB MEETING**

**GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA  
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY  
RAB Meeting – April 8, 1998**

The April 8, 1998 Gerstle River Expansion Area Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting was held at Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska at 6:07 p.m. The RAB Meeting was scheduled based on feedback from the previous RAB Meeting held on February 11, 1997.

The meeting was advertised in the Delta Wind on April 2, 1998 and in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner on April 5 and April 7, 1998. A public notice was also posted in several locations within the community of Delta Junction. Copies of the advertisements and the poster are included in Exhibit A.

Mr. Tim Webb, Community Co-chair for the RAB, presided over the meeting. Representatives from the Delta Junction community, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and Dames & Moore (contractor to the Corps) were in attendance. A copy of the sign-in sheet for the meeting is included in Exhibit B. Meeting handouts are included in Exhibit C.

Agenda items for the meeting included approving the agenda, approving meeting minutes from the 2/11/97 RAB Meeting, confirming new RAB Members, approving RAB bylaws and mission statement, BLM firefighting status, a presentation by Dave Jandt of the Borough of Land Management, records review memorandum, presented by Bob Chivvis of the Corps of Engineers, a complete viewing of the project video, and a review of current and future activities related to the Gerstle River Expansion Area site investigation. Mr. Tommy Oldham was confirmed as a new non-voting RAB member. Current RAB members are listed on the current RAB Member Contact List included in Exhibit D. Meeting minutes from the April 8, 1998 RAB Meeting are located directly following this summary.

Meeting Minutes

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

April 8, 1998, 6:00 p.m., Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair.

**Introductions and sign in**

RAB Members Present

Audrey Brown

Bob Chivvis (COE)

Steve Dubois (ADF&G)

Al Edgren (ADNR)

Nat Good (not on sign-in sheet)

Robert Layne (ADNR)

Irene Mead

Paul Miller

Thomas Miller

Tommy Oldham (new member)

Ronan Short (ADEC)

Tamie Webb

Tim Webb

Guests Present

David Jandt (BLMAFS)

Tom McGuire (BLMAFS)

Kim Morris (D&M)

Kristina Swanson (D&M)

Dave Westerman (COE)

Agenda Items (see attached)

1. Approve meeting agenda – Audrey Brown suggested adding the time and location of the meetings to the header.
  2. Approval of 2/11/97 Meeting Minutes – Audrey Brown would like specific comments to include the speaker name and their status in the community. She cited two examples on the meeting minutes that need to be clarified. Audrey Brown also requested the minutes to reflect members present and guests starting with 2/11/98 meeting.
  3. Confirm new RAB members – Tommy Oldham, Ft. Greely Fire Chief, was confirmed by unanimous consent as a new non-voting member.
  4. Approve RAB Bylaws and Mission Statement – Audrey Brown noted that the title for Section VI had not yet been changed. “Rules of the RAB” needs to be changed to “Responsibilities and Procedures of the RAB”.
- Tom Miller requested that the mission statement be changed to “Environmental Restoration Program”.

Paul Miller suggested that on Page 5, Part D, a statement be added requiring RAB members to submit all papers upon resignation. The majority did not agree. Audrey Brown recommended stating that it is encouraged for resigning members to return their materials if they do not wish to retain them.

Robert Layne proposed that in Section IV Composition, following “membership should consist of COE...”, this statement be added, “and other members of the community and may include other state and federal agency representatives.”

5. BLM Firefighting Status, Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Al Edgren spoke on behalf of the state at the last meeting. A question was made in regards to BLM’s firefighting policy. Bob Chivvis contacted BLM and asked Dave Jandt to attend the meeting and explain their policy.

Dave Jandt explained that the no entry policy into the Gerstle River Test Site and Expansion Area was based on the following items:

- A. Federal Wildlands Policy - Firefighting safety is the #1 priority.
- B. Instruction Memo (1994) from the Director – This prevents BLM from entering any hazardous waste sites, specifically classified as a site in which past or present land use conditions fall under CERCLA specifications. This is the category the Gerstle River Test Site and Expansion Area belong to. Exceptions to this item include:
  - The site must be officially designated as a no risk area and declared safe for state personnel under EPA/State requirements.
  - Entry personnel must be authorized and receive written permission to enter the site from the State Director.
  - The site must meet CFR requirements.
  - No employee must be made to enter the site against his or her own will.
- C. Perceived hazard – The letter BLM received implies that the state still questions whether or not the site is safe. This assumption is based on:
  - State of Alaska still determining the risk the site poses.
  - DNR’s policy of not entering a 2000 meter radius around the site and the 1250 foot above ground flight restriction placed on the area.

Dave Jandt proposed a few community actions that would help BLM to review its no entry policy.

- 1) RAB needs to submit a formal request to the State Director of BLM and supply with it information to justify changing the policy.
- 2) Defensible space - Talking to the homeowners at risk and placing displays to educate the community will further heighten awareness.
- 3) Prescribed fire – BLM has funding assistance available for reducing hazards.

Nat Good asked if a controlled burn policy is in place at Fort Greely and Dave Jandt responded no. He was not sure if prescribed fire would be appropriate for this area due to wildlife, but it has significantly reduced hazard in other areas. Steve Dubois noted prescribed burning is a

possibility and a policy may exist. Dave Jandt stated that BLM is certainly willing to entertain idea of changing their policy but at certain times of the year, regardless of what efforts are made, uncontrollable fire will occur and those are the ones you need to defend against. The only way to fight them is controlled burning and clearing.

Audrey Brown noted her concern as to danger to surrounding structures and having to breathe hazardous air. Tim Webb stated that in the past politics intervened, and if nothing is done, the community will implement their own defense. Dave Jandt said politics are still a factor, but by submitting a request with proper justification, BLM will keep an open mind.

Robert Layne asked if BLM had relayed any information to the state. Dave Jandt said yes in 1994 but the policy has remained unchanged.

Robert Layne noted that timber harvest is an additional issue and BLM needs an update of specific areas of concern. Dave Jandt cautioned against too much optimism. The land is not yet certified as being clear and BLM refuses the title to land at the test site and a portion of the expansion area. Robert Layne stated that the state dropped its selection of the site for the same reasons of concern. The files were reportedly destroyed by BLM.

Bob Chivvis asked if BLM could separate the Expansion Area from the Test Site. Dave Jandt said they would revisit areas they receive new information.

Audrey Brown asked for clarification on controlled areas. Dave Jandt explained that burning specific areas would help prevent future fires and significantly reduce hazard. Al Edgren thought the area north of the highway should be cleared for agricultural use.

Robert Layne noted that through research it has become possible to identify specific areas of concern within the 120 square mile area. He suggested that the COE redefine the areas considered to have high level of potential concern based on their recent findings.

Dave Jandt reminded the group that BLM would continue to question safety on the remainder of the site, unless the entire area received clearance. BLM wants justifiable proof or they can not approve the request.

Robert Layne requested an updated definition of hazardous areas from the COE. Dave Westerman noted the COE is in the process of redefining the area, but is waiting on the remainder of the information. Dave Jandt noted that the COE data is important, but the request would be much more powerful if placed by the RAB council. Audrey Brown suggested that board and DNR petition to change the policy. Dave Jandt said the request needs to go to the State Director of BLM (Scott Billing) and the Manager of AFS. Address for BLM is provided on the sign-in sheet.

Nat Good asked if board will be requesting BLM to reduce perimeter of areas. Bob Chivvis replied yes. The potential areas of hazard would only exist in the test site radius and may even be narrowed down further depending on results from testing to be completed this summer. Dave

Westerman noted that if the COE can prove the risk is not chemical, the radius size could be reduced. Al Edgren noted that most test sites require a buffer zone. Bob Chivvis asked what the buffer requirements are for military sites. Dave Jandt replied a couple of miles. Dave Westerman noted that the COE has gathered all the information on the locations of munitions for the test girds and the sighting in areas would not require a buffer zone. Audrey Brown stated that this is the type of information needed for the RAB to submit a request to BLM.

Al Edgren reiterated DNR policy. It has not been updated since 1994; sites need to be redefined and a buffer included; on Sites 9 and 10 BLM will not enter a perimeter of 2000 feet or meters to fight fires. Require clarification on the area size. Dave Westerman stated that one site requires a large buffer zone and the other does not. Al Edgren clarified that if a fire is burning within a buffer zone it will be fought.

Robert Layne stated that the new barrel pit would be an additional site. Dave Jandt noted that if new problem areas continue to be detected, it would require BLM to decline the request. Robert Layne clarified that there are only two sites containing possible hazard. The two potential pits are underground and do not pose a threat to fire.

Al Edgren noted that the bison range is part of the low risk area. Dave Westerman informed the group that the sites had been hydroaxed on the surface, but not into the ground. The sites should be safe to walk on.

Al Edgren asked BLM what type of historical records they had on file for the site. Tom McGuire responded that BLM has files of information and correspondence.

Audrey Brown made a motion for the RAB board to write a letter incorporating Dave Jandt's recommendations to attempt to change BLM's application of their policy. She requested assistance from Dave Westerman (COE) and DNR to provide the RAB board with the technical information required to write the letter. Robert Layne requested that the COE write a letter clarifying what they feel are areas of concern. Steve Dubois requested that the letter not only include fire hazard information, but also soil evaluation data. Audrey Brown asked if two weeks would be a reasonable time for the COE to provide letter. Bob Chivvis and Dave Westerman agreed that two weeks would be a reasonable amount of time to gather the information and make their recommendations. Dave Jandt reminded the COE to include prescribed burning suggestions. Bob Chivvis noted that the letter was needed as soon as possible and distributed to all RAB members and DNR. The RAB board passed a motion to write the letter as a group.

6. Records Review Memorandum, Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Bob Chivvis expects to have the draft done in three weeks. The draft will include a complete review of the all record findings on the site and incorporate any new information found by the St. Louis District. Robert Layne asked if the memo would include primary concerns (information on artillery testing) or secondary concerns (problem areas on the remainder of the site). Bob Chivvis clarified that only primary concerns will be included. Dave Westerman clarified that secondary information probably does not exist on disposal pits because they were not documented. Robert Layne noted the need for aerial photos.

Nat Good asked if this signaled the end of further search for records. Bob Chivvis confirmed. Paul Miller noted that a friend informed him that all records were sent to Sandia base, now Los Alamos and all rounds were accounted for in the reports. Robert Layne concurred that the record search should be stopped unless new information comes to light. Audrey Brown voiced her concern that the community would feel uncomfortable recommending clean up options when only the primary concerns were addressed in the record search. Robert Layne noted that the state has interest in the secondary concerns. Dave Westerman noted that the COE addressed primary and secondary concerns in their record search, but no information was found on secondary. The COE has exhausted their options. Bob Chivvis assured the board that the COE would continue to attempt to locate any leads on all activities at the site. St. Louis is focusing on munition sites.

7. Project Video, Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – The video included the history of the site based on testing information available from the records. It was a 14-minute draft version intended to allow the board to comment.

Audrey Brown asked to see the budget for the video and community relations. She also commented that the film is misleading in stating that nerve gas contamination could not remain today, thirty years after the fact. She noted that previous research shows that nerve gas casings will decompose over time and pose hazardous risks.

Nat Good asked how many years the chemical testing occurred. Robert Layne responded from 1965-1967. Nat Good noted that the people interviewed on the video were only present on site one year. It would be beneficial to interview personnel from all three years. Dave Westerman noted that the guidelines for the military were the same the entire period. He is flying to Las Vegas to speak with test officers from Site 10 that were present during the testing period.

Steve Dubois noted that the video implies that two of the four unaccounted rounds were recorded as detonated. The status of the other two is unknown. He asked if it was possible to identify the rounds from the remaining material on the site this many years after the fact. Bob Chivvis said no; the COE only has data on two of the four as of now. The test officer in Las Vegas will hopefully be able to provide information on the other two. Steve Dubois asked what actions would be taken to narrow down the 2200 anomalies found previously on the site. Dave Westerman responded that the previous data was collected in 1995 and the database for the appearance of signatures was limited, but with three more years of experience the data can now be re-analyzed to formulate more accurate conclusions. This summer the site will be re-tested with an EM-61 magnometer (the same equipment as used previously) to narrow down the number of anomalies. Bob Chivvis commented that the testing would be done on the munitions sites encountered during the record search. Steve Dubois asked what would happen once the data is narrowed down. Dave Westerman responded that the COE would most likely sample those areas.

Steve Dubois also asked for clarification to be given in the video that it applies to the Expansion Area only and does not include the Test Site. The public will assume that the video implies the entire area is safe for public use. Robert Layne suggested that a location map to

reference areas would be helpful.

8. Current and Future Site Activities – Bob Chivvis reviewed handout provided by the COE. Steve Dubois asked while performing the statistical sampling dig, what level of confidence the BLM and COE requires. Bob Chivvis responded that the COE requires an extremely high level of confidence but had not yet decided on an exact percentage. Huntsville Division may help in making that determination since they have more experience with this type of work. The records will also be taken into consideration in making this decision.

Robert Layne expressed the state's concern for any remaining drums. Dave Westerman clarified that the burst site data taken from Site 8 (meteorological tower airgun tests) was used to determine height of burst data for testing at Site 9 (dew point tests, explosives hung from trees). Tom McGuire asked if static tests were accounted for on Sites 8 and 9. Dave Westerman could not verify, but due to the nature of the testing the possibility existed that all rounds were not accounted for.

Steve Dubois noted that the fence was down and the public is gaining access to the area. He asked if the COE viewed the test site as a high-level risk area. Bob Chivvis noted that the COE has not been investigating the test site directly. Dave Westerman noted that the Test Site is still Army property and public access is not allowed. Jurisdiction of the area belongs to the Ft. Greely Commander. Steve Dubois stated that access into the test site is an issue that needs to be addressed by the board.

Bob Chivvis advised RAB board to write the Commander of Ft. Greely and attend the Ft. Greely RAB meeting. Ron Short clarified that Ft. Greely RAB is for BRAC only. He recommended contacting Colonel Brown at Ft. Richardson DPW Environmental Section or Doug Johnson in charge of Environmental at Ft. Greely. Ron Short would like to have a clarification of Ft. Greely's position at the next RAB meeting. Representatives of the base have stated in the past that they perceive no environmental risks at the Test Site and are willing to open the area to the public. The pits are marked and information is available in the 105 Report. Robert Layne noted that the information on the site is extremely conflicting.

Steve Dubois stated that as records are being examined for the Expansion Area, it would be appropriate to determine if the information also applies to the Test Site. Bob Chivvis clarified that the COE does not have the funds available to investigate the Test Site. The COE will continue investigating for information, but will not be looking specifically on information on the Test Site. Audrey Brown noted that she was not aware the scope of the project did not include investigation of the Test Site. She noted again her desire to see a copy of the budget. Steve Dubois requested that any information on the Test Site be added to the memorandum. Bob Chivvis responded that the Test Site is Army property and any information gathered on the area will be sent to the Army to use at their discretion. Tom McGuire requested inviting Doug Johnson (Ft. Richardson Public Works) or a representative from the Ft. Greely DPW to attend the next RAB meeting and express the board's concern in regard to the Test Site.

Ron Short expressed his concern to performing a confirmation dig only if warranted. Audrey



Brown requested clarification on who determines if they are warranted. Bob Chivvis explained that the Alaska District would make the decision based on the geophysical data collected this summer. Ron Short stressed that ADEC is strongly in favor of performing the confirmational dig despite data results, if for no other reason then to confirm that the equipment results are accurate. Audrey Brown asked if the COE has specific criteria to determine if a dig is warranted. Nat Good asked if the RAB board would have any input on the decision. Bob Chivvis explained that the data available now warrants performing a dig, but if the geographical data changes significantly, it may not be necessary. Audrey Brown noted that if the data were proven to be accurate, the community would have a higher level of confidence. Steve Dubois requested that the RAB board receive a copy of the report containing the geophysical data from 1995. Bob Chivvis responded that it might be possible to present previous data at the next RAB meeting.

9. Date, Time, and Agenda Items for next RAB Meeting –

Agenda items for the next meeting include:

Budget

1995 Geophysical Data

Test Site - Doug Johnson, Ft. Richardson Public Works

Records Review Memorandum

Current and Future Site Activities

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on May 27, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at Delta Junction City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

# Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

April 8, 1998, 6:00 p.m.

Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, AK



## Meeting Agenda

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- 1) Approve Draft Meeting Agenda
- 2) Approve February 11, 1998 RAB Meeting Minutes
- 3) Confirm new RAB members
- 4) Approve RAB Bylaws and Mission Statement
- 5) BLM Firefighting Status – Update from Corps
- 6) Records Review Memorandum – Update from Corps
- 7) Project Video
- 8) Current and Future Site Activities
- 9) Date, Time, and Agenda Items for next RAB Meeting

# Gerstle River Expansion Area

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

### April 8, 1998

#### **Since the last RAB meeting**

Negotiated contract for further investigation this summer  
Prepared written transcript of meeting with former test officials  
Sent authorization for drum cleanup and investigation of waste areas to Division for approval  
Prepared xerox copies of aerial photographs  
Continued work on draft Records Review Memo, incorporating information from meeting with former test officers  
Contacted BLM concerning fire fighting policy  
Prepared a video on the history of the Gerstle River Expansion Area  
Continued the historical records research, trying to contact former test officer for Site 10  
Continued efforts to declassify records

#### **Future Activities**

Records Review Memorandum by St. Louis District, Draft May 1, Final July 1  
Summary of past site investigation activities by Alaska District Draft April 30, Final June 1  
Refine geophysical data and compare with test records Draft June 15, Final July 15  
Prepare Geophysical work plans Draft July 15, Draft Final August 15  
Prepare Confirmation Dig work plan Draft July 15, Draft Final August 15  
Perform additional geophysical work Late September  
Confirmation dig (if warranted) October and only if no risk  
Obtain approval for drum removal and investigation of other waste areas May 1  
Remove drums and investigate other waste areas late summer

**EXHIBIT A**

**MEETING ADVERTISEMENTS**

# **GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all

interested parties. Topics to be discussed include a review of minutes from the last RAB meeting, confirmation of new RAB members, an update on federal and state firefighting policies, and an update on current and future activities planned at the site.

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 8th  
**TIME:** 6:00 pm  
**PLACE:** Delta Junction City Hall

For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:

Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska  
(907) 753-5782

OR

Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair  
Delta Junction  
(907) 895-1024

FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS MINER

APRIL 5, 1998

# **GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 8th

**TIME:** 6:00 pm

**PLACE:** Delta Junction City Hall

interested parties. Topics to be discussed include a review of minutes from the last RAB meeting, confirmation of new RAB members, an update on federal and state firefighting policies, and an update on current and future activities planned at the site.

For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:

Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska  
(907) 753-5782

OR

Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair  
Delta Junction  
(907) 895-1024

FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS MINER

APRIL 7, 1998

## Delta Wind

April 2, 1998 -- 9

**Davis Road**  
**Elliott Highway (Fox to end of Pavement)**  
**Farmers Loop Road**  
**Gelst Road**  
**Gold Hill Road**  
**Illinois Street**  
**Johansen Expressway**  
**Laurance Road**  
**Mitchell Expressway (Richardson Highway to Airport Road)**  
**Moose Creek Road (off Old Rich)**  
**Peger Road (north of Van Horn)**  
**Phillips Field Road**

**Newby Road**  
**Nistler Road (paved only)**  
**Nordale Road**  
**Richardson Highway (Old), Cushman So.**  
**Richardson Highway (Old), Refinery East**  
**Richardson Highway (PS#8 Johnson Rd. MP 330.4 to MP 207)**  
**Sheep Creek Road**  
**Spinach Creek Road**  
**Steele Highway (Old) (Farmers Loop Road to Fox)**  
**Tok Cut-Off (Mile 90 to Tok)**  
**Yankovich Road**

**Delta Meat & Sausage**  
**Mile 1413.5 Alaska Highway**  
**907-895-4006**

**8del7B**  
**RABBIT CAGES and accessories, poultry brooder and lights, misc. poultry items, large animal clipper, used wood frame windows, 30 gal. aquarium with fish, magnum filter, misc. fish tank items, screw-type log splitter, used Carpenter school bus seats. Other items also to be added later. Phone Tom or Lanell Theisen at 895-4850.**

**11 the28**

# GERSTLE RIVER EXPANSION AREA RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting for the Gerstle River Expansion Area. The meeting is open to all interested parties. Topics to be discussed include a review of minutes from the last RAB meeting, confirmation of new RAB members, an update on federal and state firefighting policies, and an update on current and future activities planned at the site.

**DATE: Wednesday, April 8th**  
**TIME: 6:00 pm**  
**PLACE: Delta Junction City Hall**

*For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:*

**Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-chair** OR **Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-chair**  
**U.S. Army Engineer District, Alaska**  
**(907) 753-5782**  
**Delta Junction**  
**(907) 895-1024**

**REDUCED to \$23,000**  
**\*\*\***  
**5 ACRES with Small Cabin**  
**\$15,000**  
**\*\*\***

**HAYES & HAYES CIRCLE**  
**4 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Baths,**  
**Den, Deck, Sunroom,**  
**2-Car Garage 3+++**  
**\$115,000**  
**\*\*\***

**3-BEDROOM MOBILE HOME**  
**Large 2-Car Garage w/Sheds,**  
**On 2 Acres - \$45,000**  
**\*\*\***

**4 CITY LOTS on School Road**  
**\$15,000**  
**\*\*\***

**ROGERS AVE., 4.27 Acres**  
**\$7,250**  
**\*\*\***

**3.28 ACRES near Rainbow Lake**  
**View of Mountains**  
**Great Recreational Site, Dry**  
**\$11,500**  
**\*\*\***

**CLEARWATER II SUBDIVISION LOTS,**  
**McSweeney Subdivision Lots,**  
**Engdall Subdivision Lots**  
**\*\*\***  
**Catching the Fever?**  
**Come Take A Look!**  
**\*\*\***

**BROCHURE AVAILABLE**  
**FOR ALL LISTINGS**  
**\*\*\***  
**FREE RENTAL**  
**REFERRAL SERVICE**  
**\*\*\***

**COFFEE'S HOT!**  
**\*\*\*\*\***  
**MT. HAYES COMMERCIAL COMPLEX**  
**P.O. Box 888**  
**Delta Junction, Alaska 99737**  
**907-895-4142**

# PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

## Gerstle River Expansion Area

### ***RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING***

11x17  
POSTER

**Date:** Wednesday, May 27th

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Place:** Delta Junction City Hall

The meeting will provide an update on the Corps of Engineers investigation of a former military weapons testing area to assure public safety.

*For more information, please contact:*

Mr. Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair  
895-1024

- or -

Mr. Bob Chivvis, RAB Agency Co-Chair  
(907) 753-5782





**EXHIBIT B**

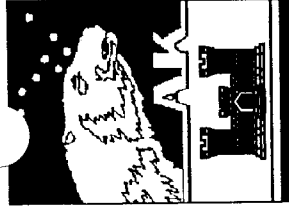
**SIGN-IN SHEETS**

# Gerstle River Expansion Area

## Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

April 8, 1998

### Sign In Sheet



Name (Please Print)	Organization (if applicable)	Address	Phone No.
DAVID JANDT	BLM/ALASKA FIRE SERVICE	P.O. BOX 35005 FT WAINWRIGHT, AK 99708	356-5503
TOM MCGUIRE	BLM/Alaska Fire Service	PO BOX 35005 FT WAINWRIGHT AK 99708	356-5227
TOMMY OLDHAM	Fort Greely Fire Emergency Services	P.O. Box 1315 Delta Junction, AK 99737	873-3425
TREASE MEAD	Delta Fire Council Soc / Residents	Box 186 Delta Junction, AK 99737	895-4813
Bob Chivvis	Corps of Engineers	Anchorage	753-5782
DAVE WESTERMAN	CORPS OF ENGINEERS	ANCHORAGE	753-2809
Audrey A. Brown	community	Box 990, Delta Jct., AK	895-5294
Ronan Short	ADGC	610, Univ. Ave.	451-2156
PAUL R. MOORE	Self	116 38th Delta	895-4493
Kim Morris	Dames & Moore	5600 B Street	562-3366
Thomas Miller	Community	HC60 Box 4260 Delta 99737	895-5159
Tamie Webb	Community	HC62 Box 5358 Delta 99737	895-1024
Tina Webb	Co-Chair	HC62 Box 5358 Delta 99737	895-1024
STEVE DUBOIS	AK DEPT - FISH & GAME	PO Box 605, DELTA 99737	895-4484

# Sign In Sheet

[illegible]

**EXHIBIT C**

**MEETING HANDOUTS**

**EXHIBIT D**

**RAB MEMBER CONTACT LIST**

# RAB Members

## Gerstle River Expansion Area



Last Name	First Name	Organization	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Day Phone
Brown	Audrey		P.O. Box 990	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-5297
Chivvis	Robert	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	P.O. Box 898	Anchorage	AK	99506-0898	907-753-5782
DuBois	Steve	ADF&G	P.O. Box 605	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4484
Edgren	Al	ADNR - Division of Forestry	P.O. Box 1149	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4225
Good	Nathaniel	GREA Rab Co-Chair (Alt)	P.O. Box 827	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-6282
Griswold	Arthur		HC-62, Box 5308	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-488-7034
Layne	Robert	ADNR - Division of Land	3700 Airport Way	Fairbanks	AK	99709-4699	907-451-2700
Levine	Jim	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	P.O. Box 898	Anchorage	AK	99506-0898	907-753-5685
Mead	Irene		P.O. Box 186	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4813
Miller	Thomas		HC-60 Box 1260	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-5157
Miller	P.R.		P.O. Box 384	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-4493
Oldham	Tommy	Ft. Greely Fire&E.M. Svc.	P.O. Box 1315	Delta Junction	AK	99702	907-873-3425
Short	Ronan	ADEC	610 University Avenue	Fairbanks	AK	99709-3643	907-451-2156
Webb	Tamie		HC-62 Box 5358	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-1024

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Day Phone
Webb	Tim	GRE A RAB Co-Chair	HC-62 Box 5358	Delta Junction	AK	99737	907-895-1024

# Memo



**DAMES & MOORE**

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**TO:** Distribution  
Gerstle River Restoration Advisory Board

**FROM:** Kimberly Morris

**DATE:** September 6, 1998

**SUBJECT:** Appendix F, Restoration Advisory Board Summary Report

Please find enclosed an update to the Gerstle River Expansion Area, Restoration Advisory Board Summary Report originally dated September 1997. The enclosed sections need to be either replaced or inserted in your copy of the report. Changes to the report are summarized below:

Appendix D	Replace draft meeting notes on pages D-2 through D-8 with the final meeting notes enclosed
Appendix E	Replace the draft meeting minutes on pages E-2 through E-4 with the final meeting minutes enclosed
Appendix F	Insert Appendix F behind Appendix E. Appendix F contains information about the RAB meeting held on July 22, 1998.

The bright pink pages contain instructions on updating your report and also divide each section. Please follow the instructions on the pink pages for updating your report and discard the pink pages when you have replaced or inserted the appropriate section.

If you have any questions, please call me at 562-3366 (within Anchorage) or 800-909-6787 (outside of Anchorage).



## **APPENDIX D**

**Please replace pages D-2 through D-8 of Appendix D**

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***These pages contain the final 4/8/98 meeting minutes.***

## Meeting Minutes

Gerstle River Expansion Area

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting

April 8, 1998, 6:00 p.m., Delta Junction City Hall, Delta Junction, Alaska

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Tim Webb, RAB Community Co-Chair.

### Introductions and sign in

#### RAB Members Present

Audrey Brown  
Bob Chivvis (COE)  
Steve Dubois (ADF&G)  
Al Edgren (ADNR)  
Nat Good (not on sign-in sheet)  
Robert Layne (ADNR)  
Irene Mead  
Paul Miller  
Thomas Miller  
Tommy Oldham (new member)  
Ronan Short (ADEC)  
Tamie Webb  
Tim Webb

#### Guests Present

David Jandt (BLMAFS)  
Tom McGuire (BLMAFS)  
Kim Morris (D&M)  
Kristina Swanson (D&M)  
Dave Westerman (COE)

Agenda Items (see attached)

1. Approve meeting agenda – Audrey Brown suggested adding the time and location of the meetings to the header.
2. Approval of 2/11/97 Meeting Minutes – Audrey Brown would like specific comments to include the speaker name and their status in the community. She cited two examples on the meeting minutes that need to be clarified. Audrey Brown also requested the minutes to reflect members present and guests starting with 2/11/98 meeting.
3. Confirm new RAB members – Tommy Oldham, Ft. Greely Fire Chief, was confirmed by unanimous consent as a new non-voting member.
4. Approve RAB Bylaws and Mission Statement – Audrey Brown noted that the title for Section VI had not yet been changed. “Rules of the RAB” needs to be changed to “Responsibilities and Procedures of the RAB”.

Tom Miller requested that the mission statement be changed to “Environmental Restoration Program”.

Paul Miller suggested that on Page 5, Part D, a statement be added requiring RAB members to submit all papers upon resignation. The majority did not agree. Audrey Brown recommended stating that it is encouraged for resigning members to return their materials if they do not wish to retain them.

Robert Layne proposed that in Section IV Composition, following "membership should consist of COE...", this statement be added, "and other members of the community and may include other state and federal agency representatives."

5. BLM Firefighting Status, Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Al Edgren spoke on behalf of the state at the last meeting. A question was made in regards to BLM's firefighting policy. Bob Chivvis contacted BLM and asked Dave Jandt to attend the meeting and explain their policy.

Dave Jandt explained that the no entry policy into the Gerstle River Test Site and Expansion Area was based on the following items:

- A. Federal Wildlands Policy - Firefighting safety is the #1 priority.
- B. Instruction Memo (1994) from the Director – This prevents BLM from entering any hazardous waste sites, specifically classified as a site in which past or present land use conditions fall under CERCLA specifications. This is the category the Gerstle River Test Site and Expansion Area belong to. Exceptions to this item include:
  - The site must be officially designated as a no risk area and declared safe for state personnel under EPA/State requirements.
  - Entry personnel must be authorized and receive written permission to enter the site from the State Director.
  - The site must meet CFR requirements.
  - No employee must be made to enter the site against his or her own will.
- C. Perceived hazard – The letter BLM received implies that the state still questions whether or not the site is safe. This assumption is based on:
  - State of Alaska still determining the risk the site poses.
  - DNR's policy of not entering a 2000 meter radius around the site and the 1250 foot above ground flight restriction placed on the area.

Dave Jandt proposed a few community actions that would help BLM to review its no entry policy.

- 1) RAB needs to submit a formal request to the State Director of BLM and supply with it information to justify changing the policy.
- 2) Defensible space - Talking to the homeowners at risk and placing displays to educate the community will further heighten awareness.
- 3) Prescribed fire – BLM has funding assistance available for reducing hazards.

Nat Good asked if a controlled burn policy is in place at Fort Greely and Dave Jandt responded no. He was not sure if prescribed fire would be appropriate for this area due to wildlife, but it has significantly reduced hazard in other areas. Steve Dubois noted prescribed burning is a

possibility and a policy may exist. Dave Jandt stated that BLM is certainly willing to entertain idea of changing their policy but at certain times of the year, regardless of what efforts are made, uncontrollable fire will occur and those are the ones you need to defend against. The only way to fight them is controlled burning and clearing.

Audrey Brown noted her concern as to danger to surrounding structures and having to breathe hazardous air. Tim Webb stated that in the past politics intervened, and if nothing is done, the community will implement their own defense. Dave Jandt said politics are still a factor, but by submitting a request with proper justification, BLM will keep an open mind.

Robert Layne asked if BLM had relayed any information to the state. Dave Jandt said yes in 1994 but the policy has remained unchanged.

Robert Layne noted that timber harvest is an additional issue and BLM needs an update of specific areas of concern. Dave Jandt cautioned against too much optimism. The land is not yet certified as being clear and BLM refuses the title to land at the test site and a portion of the expansion area. Robert Layne stated that the state dropped its selection of the site for the same reasons of concern. The files were reportedly destroyed by BLM.

Bob Chivvis asked if BLM could separate the Expansion Area from the Test Site. Dave Jandt said they would revisit areas they receive new information.

Audrey Brown asked for clarification on controlled areas. Dave Jandt explained that burning specific areas would help prevent future fires and significantly reduce hazard. Al Edgren thought the area north of the highway should be cleared for agricultural use.

Robert Layne noted that through research it has become possible to identify specific areas of concern within the 120 square mile area. He suggested that the COE redefine the areas considered to have high level of potential concern based on their recent findings.

Dave Jandt reminded the group that BLM would continue to question safety on the remainder of the site, unless the entire area received clearance. BLM wants justifiable proof or they can not approve the request.

Robert Layne requested an updated definition of hazardous areas from the COE. Dave Westerman noted the COE is in the process of redefining the area, but is waiting on the remainder of the information. Dave Jandt noted that the COE data is important, but the request would be much more powerful if placed by the RAB council. Audrey Brown suggested that board and DNR petition to change the policy. Dave Jandt said the request needs to go to the State Director of BLM (Scott Billing) and the Manager of AFS. Address for BLM is provided on the sign-in sheet.

Nat Good asked if board will be requesting BLM to reduce perimeter of areas. Bob Chivvis replied yes. The potential areas of hazard would only exist in the test site radius and may even be narrowed down further depending on results from testing to be completed this summer. Dave

Westerman noted that if the COE can prove the risk is not chemical, the radius size could be reduced. Al Edgren noted that most test sites require a buffer zone. Bob Chivvis asked what the buffer requirements are for military sites. Dave Jandt replied a couple of miles. Dave Westerman noted that the COE has gathered all the information on the locations of munitions for the test girds and the sighting in areas would not require a buffer zone. Audrey Brown stated that this is the type of information needed for the RAB to submit a request to BLM.

Al Edgren reiterated DNR policy. It has not been updated since 1994; sites need to be redefined and a buffer included; on Sites 9 and 10 BLM will not enter a perimeter of 2000 feet or meters to fight fires. Require clarification on the area size. Dave Westerman stated that one site requires a large buffer zone and the other does not. Al Edgren clarified that if a fire is burning within a buffer zone it will be fought.

Robert Layne stated that the new barrel pit would be an additional site. Dave Jandt noted that if new problem areas continue to be detected, it would require BLM to decline the request. Robert Layne clarified that there are only two sites containing possible hazard. The two potential pits are underground and do not pose a threat to fire.

Al Edgren noted that the bison range is part of the low risk area. Dave Westerman informed the group that the sites had been hydroaxed on the surface, but not into the ground. The sites should be safe to walk on.

Al Edgren asked BLM what type of historical records they had on file for the site. Tom McGuire responded that BLM has files of information and correspondence.

Audrey Brown made a motion for the RAB board to write a letter incorporating Dave Jandt's recommendations to attempt to change BLM's application of their policy. She requested assistance from Dave Westerman (COE) and DNR to provide the RAB board with the technical information required to write the letter. Robert Layne requested that the COE write a letter clarifying what they feel are areas of concern. Steve Dubois requested that the letter not only include fire hazard information, but also soil evaluation data. Audrey Brown asked if two weeks would be a reasonable time for the COE to provide letter. Bob Chivvis and Dave Westerman agreed that two weeks would be a reasonable amount of time to gather the information and make their recommendations. Dave Jandt reminded the COE to include prescribed burning suggestions. Bob Chivvis noted that the letter was needed as soon as possible and distributed to all RAB members and DNR. The RAB board passed a motion to write the letter as a group.

6. Records Review Memorandum, Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Bob Chivvis expects to have the draft done in three weeks. The draft will include a complete review of the all record findings on the site and incorporate any new information found by the St. Louis District. Robert Layne asked if the memo would include primary concerns (information on artillery testing) or secondary concerns (problem areas on the remainder of the site). Bob Chivvis clarified that only primary concerns will be included. Dave Westerman clarified that secondary information probably does not exist on disposal pits because they were not documented. Robert Layne noted the need for aerial photos.

Nat Good asked if this signaled the end of further search for records. Bob Chivvis confirmed. Paul Miller noted that a friend informed him that all records were sent to Sandia base, now Los Alamos and all rounds were accounted for in the reports. Robert Layne concurred that the record search should be stopped unless new information comes to light. Audrey Brown voiced her concern that the community would feel uncomfortable recommending clean up options when only the primary concerns were addressed in the record search. Robert Layne noted that the state has interest in the secondary concerns. Dave Westerman noted that the COE addressed primary and secondary concerns in their record search, but no information was found on secondary. The COE has exhausted their options. Bob Chivvis assured the board that the COE would continue to attempt to locate any leads on all activities at the site. St. Louis is focusing on munition sites.

7. Project Video, Bob Chivvis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – The video included the history of the site based on testing information available from the records. It was a 14-minute draft version intended to allow the board to comment.

Audrey Brown asked to see the budget for the video and community relations. She also commented that the film is misleading in stating that nerve gas contamination could not remain today, thirty years after the fact. She noted that previous research shows that nerve gas casings will decompose over time and pose hazardous risks.

Nat Good asked how many years the chemical testing occurred. Robert Layne responded from 1965-1967. Nat Good noted that the people interviewed on the video were only present on site one year. It would be beneficial to interview personnel from all three years. Dave Westerman noted that the guidelines for the military were the same the entire period. He is flying to Las Vegas to speak with test officers from Site 10 that were present during the testing period.

Steve Dubois noted that the video implies that two of the four unaccounted rounds were recorded as detonated. The status of the other two is unknown. He asked if it was possible to identify the rounds from the remaining material on the site this many years after the fact. Bob Chivvis said no; the COE only has data on two of the four as of now. The test officer in Las Vegas will hopefully be able to provide information on the other two. Steve Dubois asked what actions would be taken to narrow down the 2200 anomalies found previously on the site. Dave Westerman responded that the previous data was collected in 1995 and the database for the appearance of signatures was limited, but with three more years of experience the data can now be re-analyzed to formulate more accurate conclusions. This summer the site will be re-tested with an EM-61 magnetometer (the same equipment as used previously) to narrow down the number of anomalies. Bob Chivvis commented that the testing would be done on the munitions sites encountered during the record search. Steve Dubois asked what would happen once the data is narrowed down. Dave Westerman responded that the COE would most likely sample those areas.

Steve Dubois also asked for clarification to be given in the video that it applies to the Expansion Area only and does not include the Test Site. The public will assume that the video implies the entire area is safe for public use. Robert Layne suggested that a location map to

reference areas would be helpful.

8. Current and Future Site Activities – Bob Chivvis reviewed handout provided by the COE. Steve Dubois asked while performing the statistical sampling dig, what level of confidence the BLM and COE requires. Bob Chivvis responded that the COE requires an extremely high level of confidence but had not yet decided on an exact percentage. Huntsville Division may help in making that determination since they have more experience with this type of work. The records will also be taken into consideration in making this decision.

Robert Layne expressed the state's concern for any remaining drums. Dave Westerman clarified that the burst site data taken from Site 8 (meteorological tower airgun tests) was used to determine height of burst data for testing at Site 9 (dew point tests, explosives hung from trees). Tom McGuire asked if static tests were accounted for on Sites 8 and 9. Dave Westerman could not verify, but due to the nature of the testing the possibility existed that all rounds were not accounted for.

Steve Dubois noted that the fence was down and the public is gaining access to the area. He asked if the COE viewed the test site as a high-level risk area. Bob Chivvis noted that the COE has not been investigating the test site directly. Dave Westerman noted that the Test Site is still Army property and public access is not allowed. Jurisdiction of the area belongs to the Ft. Greely Commander. Steve Dubois stated that access into the test site is an issue that needs to be addressed by the board.

Bob Chivvis advised RAB board to write the Commander of Ft. Greely and attend the Ft. Greely RAB meeting. Ron Short clarified that Ft. Greely RAB is for BRAC only. He recommended contacting Colonel Brown at Ft. Richardson DPW Environmental Section or Doug Johnson in charge of Environmental at Ft. Greely. Ron Short would like to have a clarification of Ft. Greely's position at the next RAB meeting. Representatives of the base have stated in the past that they perceive no environmental risks at the Test Site and are willing to open the area to the public. The pits are marked and information is available in the 105 Report. Robert Layne noted that the information on the site is extremely conflicting.

Steve Dubois stated that as records are being examined for the Expansion Area, it would be appropriate to determine if the information also applies to the Test Site. Bob Chivvis clarified that the COE does not have the funds available to investigate the Test Site. The COE will continue investigating for information, but will not be looking specifically on information on the Test Site. Audrey Brown noted that she was not aware the scope of the project did not include investigation of the Test Site. She noted again her desire to see a copy of the budget. Steve Dubois requested that any information on the Test Site be added to the memorandum. Bob Chivvis responded that the Test Site is Army property and any information gathered on the area will be sent to the Army to use at their discretion. Tom McGuire requested inviting Doug Johnson (Ft. Richardson Public Works) or a representative from the Ft. Greely DPW to attend the next RAB meeting and express the board's concern in regard to the Test Site.

Ron Short expressed his concern to performing a confirmation dig only if warranted. Audrey

Brown requested clarification on who determines if they are warranted. Bob Chivvis explained that the Alaska District would make the decision based on the geophysical data collected this summer. Ron Short stressed that ADEC is strongly in favor of performing the confirmational dig despite data results, if for no other reason then to confirm that the equipment results are accurate. Audrey Brown asked if the COE has specific criteria to determine if a dig is warranted. Nat Good asked if the RAB board would have any input on the decision. Bob Chivvis explained that the data available now warrants performing a dig, but if the geographical data changes significantly, it may not be necessary. Audrey Brown noted that if the data were proven to be accurate, the community would have a higher level of confidence. Steve Dubois requested that the RAB board receive a copy of the report containing the geophysical data from 1995. Bob Chivvis responded that it might be possible to present previous data at the next RAB meeting.

9. Date, Time, and Agenda Items for next RAB Meeting - -

Agenda items for the next meeting include:

Budget

1995 Geophysical Data

Test Site - Doug Johnson, Ft. Richardson Public Works

Records Review Memorandum

Current and Future Site Activities

It was decided that the next meeting would be held on May 27, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at Delta Junction City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.